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RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE



Corres. and Mail  
**BOX AF**

Group Art Unit: 3677  
Examiner: Lugo, C.

Atty. Ref.: USUI-12N

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shoichiro Usui  
Appl. No. : 09/731,170  
Filed : December 6, 2000  
For : HIGH-PRESSURE METAL PIPE HAVING CONNECTING HEAD AND  
METHOD OF FORMING THE CONNECTING HEAD AS WELL AS  
SLEEVE WASHER FOR THE CONNECTING HEAD

Box AF  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 05 2002

**GROUP 3600**

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Action of May 23, 2002. Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 5 as follows:

5. A high-pressure pipe assembly, comprising a metal pipe having opposite first and second ends, a connecting head adjacent said first end, said connecting head having a seat surface flared outwardly from said first end and a cylindrical surface extending from said seat surface away from said first end, said cylindrical surface having a selected outside diameter, a cylindrical body extending from said connecting head toward said second end, said cylindrical body having an outside diameter less than said selected